

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

FACT SHEET

**APPROVAL OF REQUEST TO FILL 48 ORDINANCE/FULL-TIME
EQUIVALENT POSITIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007-08
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)
(3 VOTES)**

REQUEST

Authorize DMH to fill 48 ordinance/48 Full-Time Equivalent (FTEs), as detailed in the Information Technology Staffing Plan (Attachment I), in excess of what is provided for in the Department of Mental Health (DMH) staffing ordinance, pursuant to Section 6.06.020 of the County Code and subject to allocation by the Chief Executive Office (CEO). Budget for these items will be included in the FY 2007-08 Supplemental Budget process. Continued funding for these items will be included in the Mental Health Service Act (MHSA) Information Technology (IT) Plan, which DMH plans to submit to the California Department of Mental Health (SDMH) in the Fall of 2007. Funding received as a result of the MHSA IT Plan will be incorporated into DMH's FY 2008-09 Budget Request.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION

Board approval of the recommended action will allow DMH to initiate planning and development activities necessary to facilitate implementation of the Information Technology (IT) component of MHSA as well as to supplement previously approved IT activities in support of existing and new MHSA programs prior to the release of State funding of the MHSA IT Plan.

DMH will use the funding to implement, manage, and report on major new programs funded through MHSA; to initiate activities necessary to implement an Integrated Behavioral Health Information System (IBHIS) that will provide comprehensive administrative and clinical functionality and will replace the existing claiming functionality of the legacy Mental Health Management Information System (MHMIS) and Integrated System (IS); and to develop and implement an MHSA IT Plan consistent with the State's Guidelines.

Specifically, approval of this action will allow DMH to:

- Prepare solicitation documents, implement and provide continuing support for the IBHIS that will replace the current MHMIS and IS with an electronic health record system that integrates clinical, administrative, billing and other patient information, consistent with State MHSA IT Guidelines;

- Select and implement a medical professionals credentialing system before the IBHIS is implemented so that it can feed the IBHIS;
- Develop and submit the MHSA IT Plan;
- Provide custom developed solutions for reporting MHSA required outcome measures for CSS until the IBHIS is in production use;
- Provide IT services required to establish new MHSA sites;
- Participate in the planning process for the Prevention and Early Intervention Plan and Workforce Education and Training Plan; and
- Provide IT support for the implementation of the Prevention and Early Intervention Plan and Workforce Education and Training Plan (including additional outcome measures reporting).

The requested staff and funding will supplement IT resources previously approved by your Board on October 17, 2006, and March 13, 2007. Those approvals, in the amounts of \$3,177,000 and \$885,000 respectively, provided one-time funding for six (6) FTEs, which have now been incorporated into the DMH Fiscal Year 2007-08 Adopted Budget, consultant services to provide technical analysis and support, and some small investments in enabling technology in support of the original CSS programs. However, the MHSA CSS Plan has added approximately thirty (30) percent to the DMH demand for IT products and services such as new computers, configuration and installation of those computers, new applications, additional field-based information security needs, and analytical work to determine the appropriate solution to MHSA business problems and to report outcome based measures. Additional resources are thus necessary to provide sufficient support to the CSS programs as well as provide future support for additional MHSA Plans and to implement the MHSA IT Plan.

On November 3, 2006, SDMH issued a letter to the counties clarifying that, in order to support counties in their efforts to develop and implement fully integrated plans, counties are allowed to use unexpended CSS funds identified in their 3-year plans for the expenses of coordinating the remaining MHSA Plans, including IT, Capital Facilities, Education and Training, and CSS Innovation. DMH's planned expenditures to develop and implement the requested IT improvements fits the criteria for use of the unexpended funds.

BACKGROUND

The MHSA CSS Plan is a conceptual framework designed to create a culturally competent mental health system that promotes recovery and wellness services for adults and older adults with severe mental illness and resiliency for children and youth with serious emotional disorders and their families. The MHSA CSS Plan was approved by SDMH on February 14, 2006, and by your Board on May 9, 2006. DMH is implementing the MHSA CSS Plan, developed and organized by stakeholders, to serve specific age groups and provide cross-cutting services designed to serve all age groups.

SDMH is working with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSA) and Health Level 7 to define national standards for behavioral health systems. These standards will be phased-in over several years, allowing the County systems to adapt as the standards evolve and become nationally uniform. Based on this work, SDMH is expected to finalize the IT Plan guidelines no later than this fall which is anticipated to result in distribution of significant IT funding to DMH and its contract provider community. DMH has provided comments to the State on the draft IT Plan guidelines.

Upon finalization of the SDMH guidelines, DMH will develop and submit its IT Plan for SDMH approval. Based on the final guidelines, DMH will also finalize solicitation documents and engage in the appropriate proposal process to select a vendor for provision of the IBHIS. The final award of a contract and implementation of the IBHIS will require further action by your Board. DMH anticipates that the contract will be brought to your Board for approval in the Spring of 2008. After the award of the contract, it is anticipated that the first site would be operational in approximately one year (Spring 2009) and that the roll-out to all sites would be accomplished by Spring 2010. Staff currently supporting the IS and MHMIS would be migrated to provide the required support for IBHIS as the systems are transitioned.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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